

International magazine recognizes Gen. Nielsen for role in summit

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Armed Forces Journal International honored AFRL Commander Maj Gen Paul D. Nielsen in the Laurels section of their January 2002 edition for identifying steps that should be taken to ensure America's continuing national competitiveness in science and technology.

The strategic summit, hosted by Nielsen and the Air Force Research Laboratory, and Toffler Associates, brought together 45 of the nation's leaders from scientific, military, business, and political communities in Washington, D.C. Attendees devised a route for future scientific and technological investments that will simultaneously boost U.S. national competitiveness while strengthening national security.

Science can play a critical role in creating solutions for national challenges, according to Nielsen. Encouraging innovations in science and technology is the best way to solve many of the problems that confront us now and in the future. Science and technology is critical for the continuing transformation we need for our country, our industry and our Air Force.

A renewed national commitment to investments in the physical sciences and engineering will bolster our economy, while contributing to better defense and intelligence tools, Nielsen told the industry leaders. In addition, the fast-paced advances in the life sciences are generating their own economic benefit while increasing the quality of life for all of us.

"It's important to continue pushing and providing incentives for government and the private sector to increase investment in science and technology," said Nielsen. "It's also essential to make it easier for organizations to work together to turn their intellectual capital into innovations that benefit us all."

Nielsen summarized the summit's three major conclusions. He noted the need for better productivity from the nations' science and technology enterprise, better metrics with which business can ascertain value, and a better framework for leveraging intellectual capital to create new technologies, products and services. Nielsen also pointed out that the base of our nation's science and technology depends on our nation's schools, not only our universities, but also our elementary and secondary schools. We must work together to excite our children about science and technology careers—and to train them for the future.

Congresswoman Constance Morella, member of the Science Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives said, "Every aspect of our economy and our security has become more dependent on our understanding of the sciences and technology."

"By bringing together our nation's best science minds, AFRL and Toffler Associates have initiated an important dialogue to identify where we need to focus our efforts to ensure our national competitiveness and security," Morella said. She suggested that the group consider presenting its resolutions and action plan in testimony to Congress. @